



## Croatia

### National developments in 2024



After a surge in applications following Croatia's admission to the Schengen area in 2023, the number of applications decreased in 2024. As in recent years, many applicants continued to move onwards to other EU+ countries after a few days, often without formalising their asylum application after expressing their intention to apply. The Ministry of the Interior underlined again its zero tolerance toward illegal action by police officers and the non-persecution of criminal offences by police officers against migrants in the border areas, in response to civil society organisations reporting on instances of violence in the region. The ministry's "Independent Monitoring Mechanism for the Protection of Fundamental Human Rights" project continued in 2024, while it noted that fewer activities were carried out in the first half of 2024 due to communication breakdowns but the police's full cooperation during ad hoc visits and meetings were recognised.<sup>1</sup> The Border Police established a new area at the border with Bosnia and Herzegovina to facilitate the screening, registration and identification of apprehended applicants, which is expected to become one of the key sites once the Pact is implemented.

Following the CJEU's ruling that the fact that a Member State has carried out pushbacks of applicants at the borders in itself does not preclude the implementation of a Dublin transfer,<sup>2</sup> national courts across EU+ countries typically confirmed transfers to Croatia,<sup>3</sup> leading to an increased workload for the country's Dublin unit. Planning for the implementation of the Pact, a new service for Dublin procedures is foreseen.

The International Protection Service was faced with high staff turnover and difficulties in recruitment in 2024, hindering the expansion of the pool of staff and knowledge retention in the service. This was noted to be a particularly pressing issue in light of the human resources necessary for the implementation of the Pact. In order to speed up decision-making, the EU-funded LIDA project aims to support digitalisation and improve credibility assessments by using a language recognition software.

While the occupancy rates in the reception facilities in Kutina and Zagreb remained around 70%, authorities expect an increase in the number of applicants following the changes introduced by the Pact. They planned to increase capacity with new, smaller centres, which would be easier to manage and adapt to changing needs.

A new project was launched in 2024 to finance legal assistance in the return procedure, and another project is to be launched for asylum applicants in 2025. This was also in anticipation of the requirements under the Pact and its expanded scope for providing legal assistance.

The Croatian Red Cross and the Education Agency trained educators and teachers to be able to provide better psychological support for Ukrainian children and support their integration in the class and into Croatian society.<sup>4</sup>

#### More input from civil society:

- [European Council on Refugees and Exiles](#)

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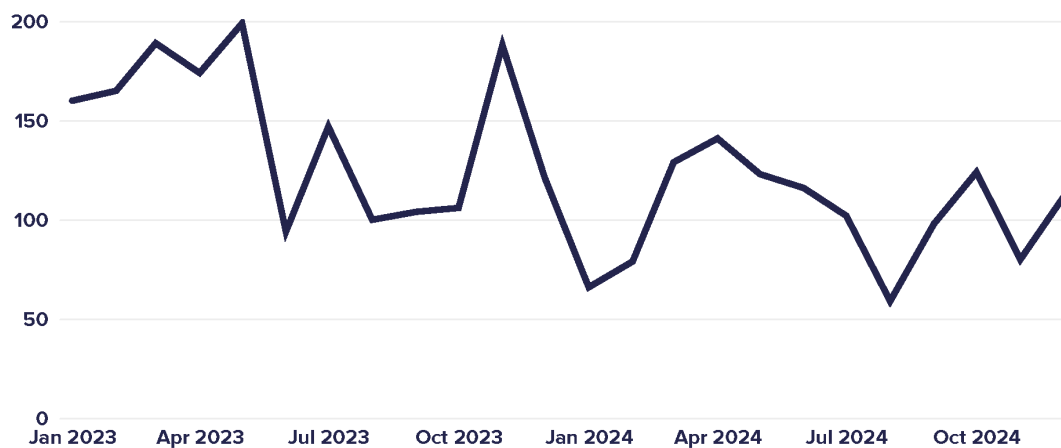
## Key indicators for 2024



Rank by number of asylum applications <b>23</b>	Rank per capita (applications per 1M inhabitants) <b>23</b>	Share of applications in EU+ <b>0.1%</b>	Recognition rate <b>21%</b>
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Indicator	2024	2023	% change	Top 3 countries of origin
Asylum applications	1,228	1,747 ↓	-30%	Russia (29%), Syria (16%), Türkiye (15%)
Pending cases (Dec '24)	1,120	1,538 ↓	-27%	Russia (28%), Türkiye (12%), Syria (11%)
First instance decisions	312	92 ↑	239%	Russia (26%), Burundi (12%), Türkiye (9%)
Refugee status	61	30 ↑	103%	Syria (23%), Russia (18%), Cameroon (11%)
Subsidiary protection	4	1 ↑	300%	Palestine (75%), Russia (25%)
Negative	247	61 ↑	305%	Russia (28%), Burundi (13%), Türkiye (11%)

Evolution of asylum applications, 2023-2024



For more developments, please consult the [Asylum Report 2025](#) and the [National Asylum Developments Database](#).





## Sources

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<sup>1</sup> Independent Monitoring Mechanism on the Conduct of Police Officers of the Ministry of the Interior in the Area of Border Protection, Irregular Migration, and International Protection. (July 2024). [Semi-Annual Report of the Independent Monitoring Mechanism on the Conduct of Police Officers of the Ministry of the Interior in the Area of Border Protection, Irregular Migration, and International Protection.](#)

<sup>2</sup> European Union, Court of Justice of the European Union [CJEU], *X v State Secretary for Justice and Security (Staatssecretaris van Justitie en Veiligheid)*, C-392/22, ECLI:EU:C:2024:195, 29 February 2024. Link redirects to the English summary in the EUAA Case Law Database.

<sup>3</sup> EUAA Case Law Database. [Dublin procedure – 2024 – Croatia.](#)

<sup>4</sup> Croatian Red Cross | Hrvatski Crveni Križ. (2024, February 29). [Psihološka prva pomoć u integraciji djece izbjeglica \[Psychological first aid in the integration of refugee children\].](#)